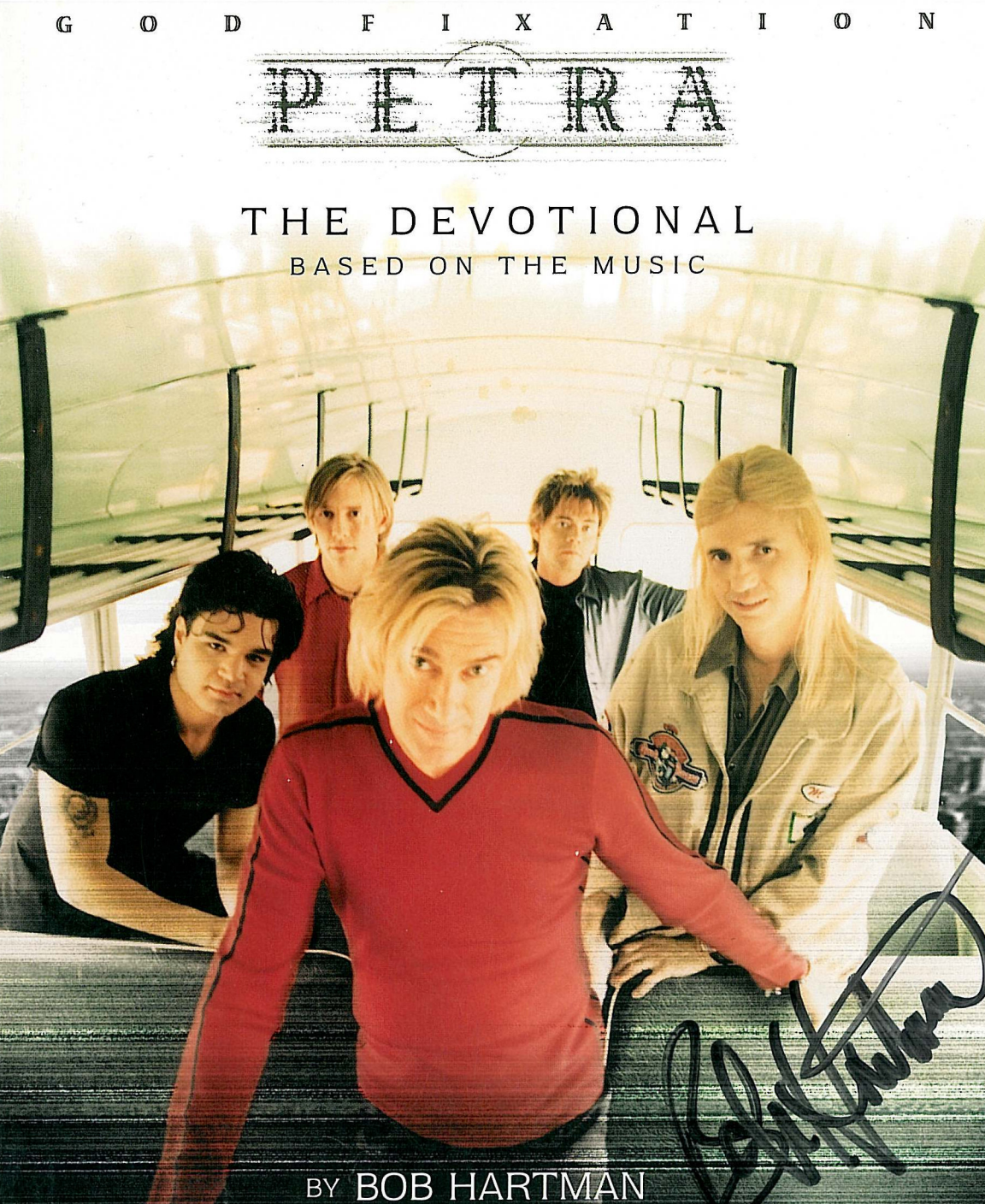
GOD FIXATION

PETRA

THE DEVOTIONAL

BASED ON THE MUSIC



BY BOB HARTMAN

G O D F I X A T I O N

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WORD epic

INTRODUCTION

Heb 12:2 *Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

As we approach the beginning of a new millennium it has never been more important for us to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith. This is the message behind Petra's newest recording, *God Fixation.* This album represents months of prayer and hard work but it has been a tremendous labor of love. The unity and dedication of the band were evident through the entire recording process and we feel strongly that the music reflects this unity. The Christian life is one of trials and disappointments as well as victories and joy and as you listen you will hear the honesty of less than perfect men attempting to share a living faith in a loving God. These Bible studies are to give further thought on the messages in the songs and we hope you will find them edifying and inspiring and most of all we pray they will help you keep your eyes fixed on Jesus.

--Bob Hartman

SONG BY SONG THEMATIC LISTING

If I Had To Die For Someone - Selfishness -
Jn 15:13, Mt 16:25, Rom 5:8

Hello Again - Resurrection -
Rev 21:4, Heb 12:1

A Matter Of Time - Mortality -
1 Pet 4:3, Eph 5:15-16

Falling Up - God's grace -
Ps 37:23-24, Jude 1:24, Phil 1:6, Isa 41:10

Over The Horizon - Perseverance -
1 Pet 4:12-13, James 1:12, James 1:3

God Fixation - Keeping our eyes on Christ -
Ps 112:7, 2 Cor 10:5, Phil 2:15, Heb 12:2, 2 Tim 3:14-15

Set For Life - Contentment -
Mt 6:19-21, 1 Tim 6:6-10

Magnet Of The World - Separation -
2 Pet 2:20, 1 Pet 2:11, 2 Pet 1:4, 1 Jn 2:15-17

Shadow Of A Doubt - Faith -
James 1:6-8, Mark 11:23, Eph 3:12, Eph 3:17-19

St. Augustine's Pears - Confession -
Rom 7:19, 2 Tim 2:22

The Invitation - Redemption -
Mt 22:2-10, Mt 22:14, Lk 21:17, Jn 3:16

"MAGNET OF THE WORLD"

Words by Bob Hartman
Music by Bob Hartman and John Elefante

2 Peter 2:20

There are things that look attractive
on the surface of despair
There are things that hold my interest
when I really shouldn't care
I have felt intoxicated viewing
pleasures from afar
But I've been illuminated when they're
seen for what they are
Keep me ever closer
Save me from this strong seducing...

Chorus:
Magnet of the world
It reaches to my heart and pulls me
Magnet of the world
Wants to keep me far from You
If it wasn't for Your love that holds me
I would give in to the
Magnet of the world

When a compass pulled by magnetism
points a different way
It's not hard to lose your bearings, it's
not hard to go astray
Guide me with Your lighthouse
Keep me from the rocks and from this

(Chorus)

Bridge:
When will I be free from this
The unfulfilling counterfeit
When will I learn to resist
The constant pull that does exist
Take me farther from this path
Of least resistance now
Will You show me how?

And if it wasn't for Your love
that holds me
I would give in to
The magnet of the world
It reaches to my heart and pulls me
Magnet of the world
Wants to keep me far from You
Magnet of the world
It reaches to my heart and pulls me
Magnet of the world
Magnet of the world...

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MAGNET OF THE WORLD

Theme- Separation

Objective- Discovering how the world system affects our thoughts and attitudes and learning what it means to be "not of this world."

Scripture- 2 Pet 2:20 *If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our LORD and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning.*

Bible Study-

In the Bible the word, "world" has a different meaning than the common English definition. It refers to a vast system and order over which Satan is the prince. Although the Christian is saved out of this order we remain in the world, although separate from it, and are witnesses to it. Jesus said we are in this world but we are not of this world. This song describes the temptation and pull of this world order and compares it to the pull of a magnet. Although through Christ we are no longer a part of this system, it can still influence us. These scriptures describe the conflict that exists everyday in the Christian life.

1 Pet 2:11 *Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul.*

We are called "aliens and strangers" because we have been translated into a new Kingdom through Christ, although we still wage war everyday with sinful desires.

2 Pet 1:4 *Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.*

God has given us a new nature that is in opposition to the world system. Through God's promises we can escape the corruption of evil desires.

1 Jn 2:15-17 *Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world--the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does--comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.*

We cannot love both the world system and God. They are in direct opposition to each other. The world system will one day be destroyed but the child of God will live forever.

Closing- Take a moment to consider the ways the world system influences your life. Think about the areas of your life that you know are weak and determine to keep yourself free from the influence of the "magnet" of the world.

Prayer- Father, help me to recognize the pull of the magnet of the world and not to be overcome with evil but overcome evil with good. Help me to allow Your light to shine to those who are lost without Your love.

"IF I HAD TO DIE FOR SOMEONE"
Words by Bob Hartman
Music by Lonnie Chapin and John Elefante

John 15:13

I wear my seatbelt in the car I
buckle up for safety
I run for cover from the storm
I wear a Band-Aid on my knee I look
both ways when crossing and I flee
Any danger I can see

And if I try each day to save my life in
every way I can
How could I understand the way
You died for me

Chorus:
'Cause I don't know if I could even if I
think I would
If I had to die for someone
If I had to die for someone else
How could I ever give my life to set the
guilty free
When I cannot imagine
If I had to die for someone else like me
Someone else like me

I keep away from falling rocks and I
don't play with matches
I lock the door I don't know why
It seems to me I'm much too old to
wear a scarf out in the cold but
I want to live until I die

I guess I love my life a little more than
I should love it
And if I had to I don't know if I could
Lay it down

(Chorus)

Bridge:
And I am glad that You are not at all
like me
'Cause You laid down Your life and did
it willingly
It still amazes me to know
It's me that You were thinking of
No one else could have a greater love
A greater love

(Chorus)

If I had to die for someone
Could I die for someone...

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IF I HAD TO DIE FOR SOMEONE

Theme- Selfishness

Objective- To recognize how much we are motivated by selfishness and to come closer to comprehending the meaning of Christ dying for the ungodly.

Scripture- Jn 15:13 *Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.*

Bible Study-

The thought of having to die for someone else is a sobering thought. I was thinking about how many things I do every day to preserve my own life. The things I do to make sure I am comfortable, safe and pain-free. The idea behind this song is the question of whether or not I would be willing to die for someone else. It is not something we think about often because so few of us are ever put into a position to have to do so. But the words of Christ compel us to contemplate this question.

Mt 16:25 *For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it.*

Although the 1980's were called the "me" decade, the 1990's have redefined the meaning of selfishness. Even the highest office in our country stands accused of satisfying selfish needs at the expense of others. We have mothers killing their children because they don't fit into their lifestyle. And even our churches are filled with scandals that all point back to one thing: selfishness. As someone has said, is it any wonder that the letter "I" is in the middle of the word "sin?"

Rom 5:8 *But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

How are we to understand how Christ could die for us "while we were still sinners" when our selfishness makes it difficult for us to even contemplate dying for someone we love? Is it any wonder that Jesus tells us that there is no greater love than that displayed in laying down our life for a friend? Aren't you glad he calls us friends?

Closing- Identify the ways we try to save our own lives. Think about what it means to lose your life for Christ. Only when we become less selfish can we begin to understand the sacrifice of Christ.

Prayer- Father, help me to understand more about what it meant for Your Son to die for someone like me and help me to become less and less selfish as I become more like Your Son.

"THE INVITATION"
Words by Bob Hartman. Music by Kevin Brandow, Brian Wooten and John Elefante

Matthew 22:2-10

The King has planned the supper for the wedding of His Son
And He sent out His servants to invite the chosen ones
But they would not receive them and they all refused to come
So He sent them to the highways inviting everyone
They came from every direction
They entered into the gates of the One
The One who called them and gave them
The right to sit next to His Son
Do you see...

Chorus:
It's your invitation
Your presence is requested at the marriage of the Lamb
It's your invitation
To be the guest of honor at the wedding of the Great I Am

They'll come from every nation, tribe and tongue
All those with the ears to hear Him knocking
There will be rich and poor alike there will be old and young
He stands outside of the door
Not all will hear Him but there will be some
They'll hear the voice of the Bride and the voice of the Spirit say, "come"
Do you hear...

(1st Chorus)

Bridge:
Oh, He's God's worthy Lamb
We'll drink from the Water of Life
In garments of white
With no end in sight
Did you know...

Chorus:
It's your invitation
Your presence is requested at the marriage of the Lamb
It's your invitation
To be the guest of honor of the Great I Am

(2nd Chorus)

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THE INVITATION

Theme- Redemption

Objective- To recognize what it means to partake of all that God has for those who love Him.

Scripture- Mt 22:2-10 *The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come. Then he sent some more servants and said, 'Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.' But they paid no attention and went off--one to his field, another to his business. The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. Go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.' So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, both good and bad, and the wedding hall was filled with guests.*

Bible Study-

This song was taken from the parable of the marriage of the King's son. There are several things in this parable that reveal truths about God's Kingdom. Although the parable was written to describe the rejection by the Pharisees of Jesus, it has many implications for us today.

Mt 22:14 *For many are invited, but few are chosen.*

Not everyone will listen to the good news. Some will just walk away and not respond no matter how hard we plead. As the old saying goes, you can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink.

Lk 21:17 *All men will hate you because of me.*

As servants carrying the Gospel, we can expect personal rejection as well as the rejection of the message. None of us like to be rejected but we can find comfort in the words of Christ that He will be with us and will go before us.

Jn 3:16 *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

The invitation is extended to "whosoever." There is no discrimination in the Kingdom of God. In this, we see the unsearchable grace of God, for those described as "good and bad" were allowed to come and be seated at the banquet with the King and his son.

Closing- God extends His invitation to each one of us to spend eternity with Him. Although we are not worthy, His grace is sufficient and we are accepted by God when we come to Him in faith.

Prayer- God, I thank you for Your invitation to spend eternity with You. May I be faithful to invite others as Your Spirit leads me and may I never take for granted the honor of being chosen by Your grace.

"GOD FIXATION"
Words by Bob Hartman. Music by Pete Orta, Lonnie Chapin and John Elefante

Psalm 112:7

He's got a straight head in a world of brain dead
He's got a clean nose even when the wind blows
He's got a backbone even when he's all alone
Ain't takin' no chances following the masses

He's got his mind set
On high with his affections
He's got the jones
He makes no bones

Chorus:
It's a God fixation
A singleness of heart, an undistracted mind
It's a God fixation
Addiction of a different kind

He's got 20/20 vision making a decision
He's so unaffected by what he has rejected
Rooted and grounded -
he's standin' up to be counted
And he's already proved that he will not be moved

He will not bend to
The pressures and persuasions
He knows the lies
He won't compromise

(Chorus)

Bridge:
Fascinations
In the heavenlies
Imaginations
In captivity

(Chorus)
(Chorus)

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GOD FIXATION

Theme- Keeping our eyes on Christ.

Objective- To learn what it means to be sold-out to God in every area of our lives.

Scripture- Ps 112:7 *He will have no fear of bad news; his heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.*

Bible Study-

This title song from Petra's latest album describes the character of a person who is sold-out to God. To psychologists, having a fixation is to prefer one object of satisfaction over all others. That object for the sold-out Christian is Christ and Christ alone. The song identifies several traits of a dedicated believer:

Intellectual integrity- 2 Cor 10:5 *We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.*

A sold-out Christian is a master of his own thoughts. He is so familiar with the Truth that he is able to recognize any thought that goes against the knowledge of God.

Individual will- Phil 2:15 *So that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe.*

A sold-out Christian is able to maintain his testimony despite those around him who would go the other way.

Unity of focus- Heb 12:2 *Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

A sold-out Christian has Jesus as the center of his focus. He is constantly aware of the reality of God and endeavors to see the world through God's eyes.

Perseverance- 2 Tim 3:14-15 *But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.*

A sold-out Christian continues in the faith and in the scriptures and never gives up. Despite all adversity he stays true to his beliefs.

Closing- See if you can identify these traits in the song. Ask yourself if this description fits you. Make your primary passion to be sold-out for God.

Prayer- Lord, help me to keep my eyes fixed on You and my heart true to Your Word. Help me to continue to be faithful in the things I have learned and not be distracted by things that would pull me away.

"FALLING UP"
Words by Bob Hartman
Music by Pete Orta and John Elefante

Psalm 37:23-24

Standing on the corner I was losing track of time
When away in the distance saw an old friend of mine
He was smiling when he walked up held a tract out in his hand
Then he told me Jesus loved me and said "so do I, man"
Told me Jesus wants to save me from the fiery pit of hell
Then I told him I was livin' there I knew that place well
I was just about to leave when a love came over me
Like nothin' I had felt then we kneeled and we prayed
Right there in the street we prayed

And now, after all those years of falling down
I fell up in the arms of Love
When I heard Him call

Chorus:
He was there and I could hear Him calling
I was falling up into His arms
Love was catching me that day and somehow
I was falling up then
And I'm falling up now

I'm falling up now

I remember that same feeling I'm reminded everyday
See Jesus lives inside me and I know He's there to stay
Sometimes I start to fall down just like any other man
But His arms are there to catch me
And lift me up again

After all those years of falling down
I fell up in the arms of Love
When I heard Him call

(Chorus)

Now - couldn't live without Him
Now - wanna know more about Him
Now - I'm falling once again
Now - falling up to heaven

(Chorus)
(Chorus)

I'm falling up now...

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FALLING UP

Theme- God's grace

Objective- To realize what it means to be totally dependent on God.

Scripture- Ps 37:23-24 *If the LORD delights in a man's way, he makes his steps firm; Though he stumble, he will not fall, for the LORD upholds him with his hand.*

Bible study- This story-song relates the journey of one man as he discovers the grace of God. After a life of "falling down" the subject finds himself "falling up" into the arms of God which is a picture of what it means to come to a place of total reliance on God. Just as a small child being tossed into the air by its father never worries about being dropped, so should we have faith that God is able to uphold us through all of life's circumstances. Let us look at some scriptures that can give us that assurance.

Jude 1:24 *To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy--*

God is our strength in times of temptation and we are made righteous through our faith in Jesus Christ.

Phil 1:6 *being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*

The Christian life is much about trusting God to complete the work He started in our lives. Would God start something He didn't intend to finish?

Isa 41:10 *So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*

God is on our side and the more we grow in Him, the more we learn how He can be trusted with every area of our lives.

Closing- Take a personal inventory of your life and ask yourself which areas you have not totally given over to God. Ask yourself why. Studying these scriptures can help you know that your life is in good hands with God.

Prayer- Father, help me to give every area of my life to You and help me to find confidence and comfort in the knowledge that Your work in my life is not yet complete. I thank You for being there to catch me when I fall.

DISCOGRAPHY

1998 God Fixation
1997 Petra Praise 2: We Need Jesus
1995 No Doubt
1995 Petra - CD
1995 Come And Join Us - CD
1993 Wake-Up Call
1991 Unseen Power
1990 Beyond Belief
1989 Petra Praise: The Rock Cries Out
1988 On Fire!
1987 This Means War!
1986 Back To The Street
1986 Captured In Time And Space
1985 Beat The System
1983 Not Of This World
1983 More Power To Ya
1982 Never Say Die
1979 Washes Whiter Than
1977 Come And Join Us
1974 Petra

GREATEST HITS RECORDINGS

1995 Rock Block
1993 Petra Power Praise
1992 Petra Collection (Spanish)
1991 Petrafied: The Very Best Of Petra
1990 War And Remembrance
1989 Petra Means Rock

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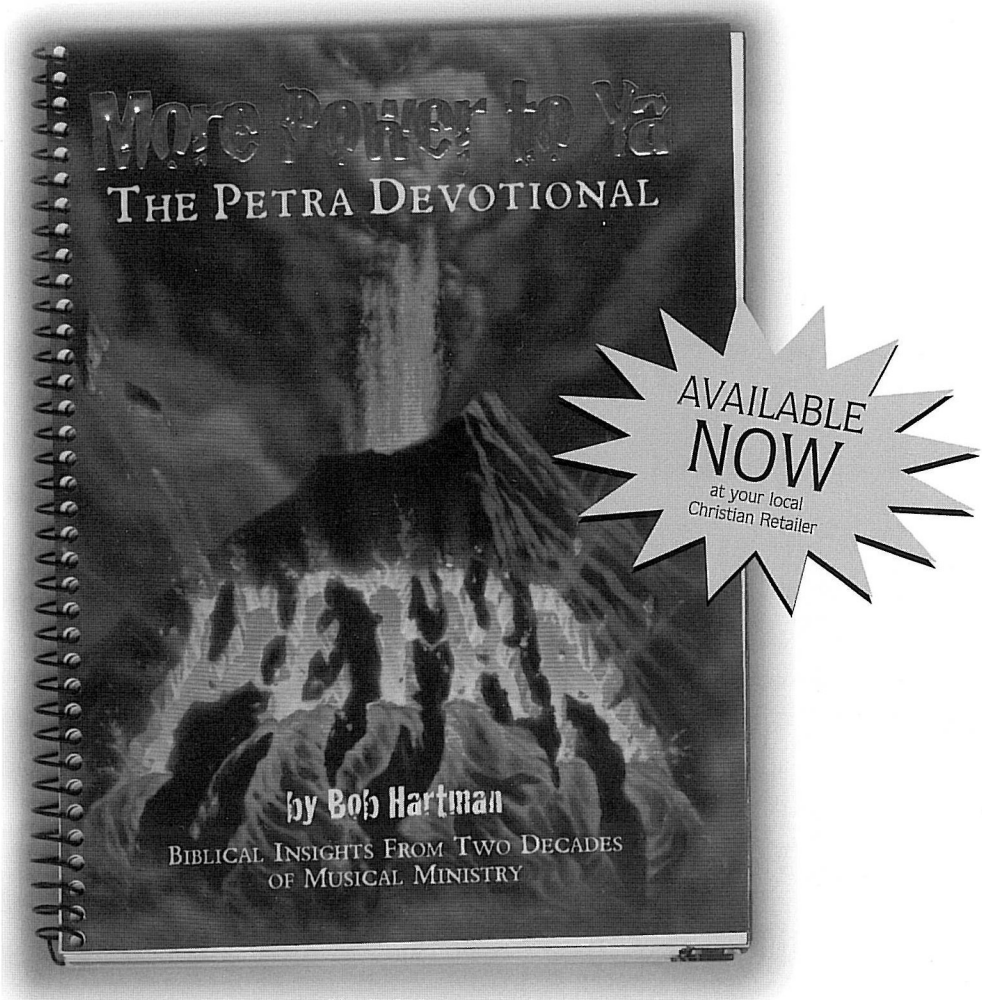

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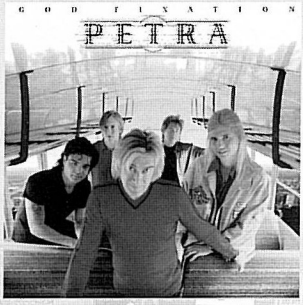

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